

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES JULY 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

June Unemployment Rates Climb a bit Higher

The **Kenosha MSA**, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased seven-tenths of a point to 5.5 percent in June. Labor force figures showed 40 more employed and 640 more unemployed over the month. Given the last decade timeframe, June typically sees a rate of 4.7 percent and has usually risen by five-tenths of a percentage point from the May figure. Kenosha County, like the rest of the Southeast WDA counties, usually expects to see a monthly increase in the June rate as the labor force tends to swell with those just entering or re-entering the summer work scene such as high school and college students on summer break and other more seasonal workers. The June labor force survey tends to capture these new entrants as unemployed and will proceed to show them as employed in the July survey.

Annually, Kenosha MSA unemployment rate is up six-tenths of a point which is actually fairly low for a year to year look this year, but none the less it is still higher than a year ago. One thousand more Kenosha residents are employed but 580 more are unemployed creating the higher annual difference in rate.

The industry employment figures for Kenosha MSA show 250 fewer jobs over the month and is the only regional county to show a monthly loss. This is the second straight year showing a May to June loss. Typical seasonality is playing out as services and government employment are chief industries showing loss as public and private school employment has subsided for the summer. Construction is showing its health, up 180 jobs and has broken a record for its highest amount of recorded employment in a month. Manufacturing showed a very slight gain, 20 jobs as the goods producing industries are continuing to show promise. Retail trade showed the largest gain of the service producing industries for the month.

Annual industry employment has decreased 290 total jobs, most of this anchored in a deficit of 750 manufacturing jobs and 600 in services. Wholesale trade is also showing a larger decrease, down 150 jobs since June of 2001. Construction shows a whopping 42

percent growth from this time last year, but despite this gain, the losses in services and manufacturing are too much to negate and the county still shows an overall deficit.

The **Racine MSA** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate registered 7.0 percent, up seven tenths over the month. This up slightly higher than the average six-tenths of a point increase given the 1991-2001 timeframe and is the first increase since February of this year. The data show 1,500 more employed and 780 more unemployed since May.

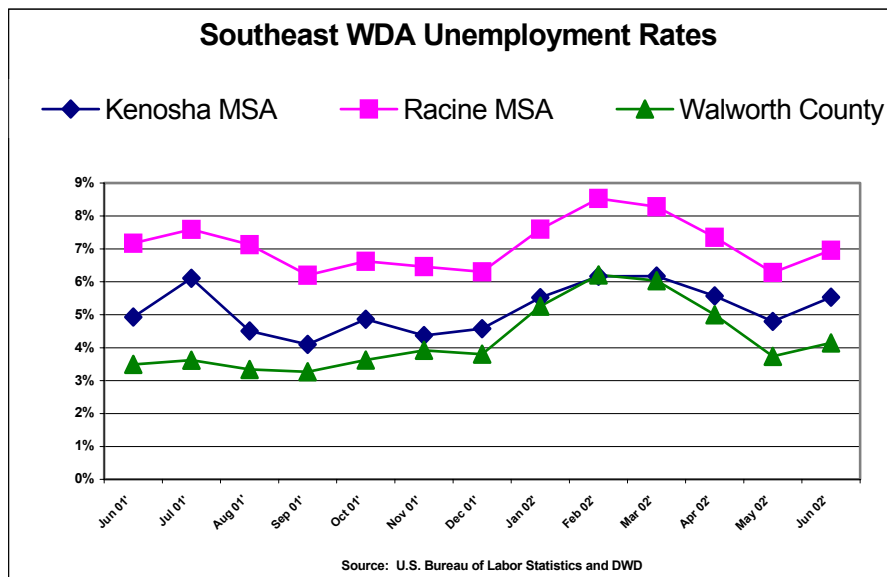
One of the few brighter spots for Racine County is that for the first time since January of 2000, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is lower than that month for the previous year.

June's rate for 2002 is two-tenths of a point lower than that last June's. The difference from year ago rates, which have been fairly high, have started to decrease since February and hopefully will continue to do so. Since June of 2001, there are 2,000 more employed and 70 fewer unemployed Racine County residents.

Racine County's industry figures show 770 more jobs over the month with gains in every industry except wholesale trade which was down slightly by 30 jobs. Retail trade and construction and showed the largest gains combining for 280 jobs over the month. Government showed a gain over the month (unlike the other southeast counties) but will most likely show a decrease next month as the county school districts report the summer drop-off in employment. All considered, it was a fairly typical June in Racine County.

Annually, there are 580 more jobs in the Racine MSA. All of this gain was anchored in all service producing industries except for wholesale trade which showed 180 fewer jobs. The wholesale trade job loss was very closely allied to the 270 fewer manufacturing jobs within the county. Services showed the largest increase with 470 additional jobs. Construction and FIRE employment remained relatively flat over the year.

Walworth County's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased four-tenths of a percent point to 4.1 percent in June.



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Walworth County, the smallest of the three-county area, showed the largest jump in the number of employed residents increasing by 1,870 and showed the smallest increase in the number of unemployed, 310. It should be noted that the unemployment rate is the highest for the month of June since 1987 when it climbed to 5.2 percent.

Walworth County shows the largest annual increase in unemployment rate as it has increased seven-tenths of a point from last June. Most of this increase is mainly attributed to the job softening in other counties in which Walworth residents work as county of work is not considered when looking at a specific county's labor force.

The monthly industry data has kept up with the seasonal expectations. 1,150 jobs were filled over the month, the majority in services and retail trade especially around the Lake Geneva area. Construc-

tion (+110) and manufacturing (160+) were also large contributors, and in fact, Walworth County added more manufacturing jobs than Kenosha and Racine Counties, combined. Government employment and FIRES sectors were the only industries to decrease employment over the month.

Annual industry employment showed one percent or 400 more jobs with the only losses showing up in manufacturing (-440 jobs) and wholesale trade (-20 jobs). TCPU remained unchanged. The rest of the industries showed fairly robust growth especially in the FIRE sectors, which added 230 additional jobs for an 18 percent increase. Services employment, which makes up 27 percent of all industry employment (12,032 jobs) and is the largest segment of industry employment, has added only 60 jobs over the year. This is rather flat growth and is actually a bit surprising in spite of the economic downturn from which the state is beginning to recover.

June 2002	Wisconsin	Kenosha County/MSA	Racine County/MSA	Walworth County	Southeast WDA
Civilian Labor Force*	3,111,242	83,902	95,855	58,151	237,908
Persons Employed	2,952,469	79,261	89,181	55,740	224,182
Persons Unemployed	158,773	4,641	6,674	2,411	13,726
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.5%	7.0%	4.1%	5.8%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	2,868,042	54,786	82,370	44,429	181,585
Goods Producing Jobs	706,224	14,683	25,298	11,534	51,515
Service Producing Jobs	2,161,818	40,103	57,072	32,895	130,070
Construction & Mining	135,892	3,159	3,930	2,384	9,473
All Manufacturing	570,332	11,524	21,368	9,150	42,042
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	132,547	2,093	2,531	1,731	6,355
Wholesale Trade	139,326	2,409	3,175	1,501	7,085
Retail Trade	511,079	11,422	14,746	8,286	34,454
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	153,699	1,426	2,429	1,513	5,368
Services	802,143	13,803	23,356	12,032	49,191
All Government	423,024	8,950	10,835	7,832	27,617
Change from May 2002					
Civilian Labor Force*	71,960	670	2,280	2,180	5,130
Persons Employed	51,180	40	1,500	1,870	3,410
Persons Unemployed	20,780	640	780	310	1,730
Unemployment Rate	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	25,780	-250	770	1,150	1,660
Goods Producing Jobs	13,030	190	220	270	680
Service Producing Jobs	12,740	-440	550	880	980
Construction & Mining	6,730	180	130	110	410
All Manufacturing	6,300	20	90	160	270
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities (TCPU)	-260	30	20	20	70
Wholesale Trade	1,230	-10	-30	0	-40
Retail Trade	5,110	160	150	380	690
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (FIRE)	1,510	30	70	-50	50
Services	10,080	-400	70	790	450
All Government	-4,920	-250	260	-250	-230
Change from June 2001					
Civilian Labor Force*	58,510	1,580	1,940	1,770	5,280
Persons Employed	46,420	1,000	2,000	1,330	4,330
Persons Unemployed	12,090	580	-70	440	960
Unemployment Rate	0.3%	0.6%	-0.2%	0.7%	0.3%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	14,830	-290	580	400	690
Goods Producing Jobs	-9,640	160	-220	-360	-420
Service Producing Jobs	24,470	-450	800	760	1,110
Construction & Mining	6,060	910	50	80	1,040
All Manufacturing	-15,700	-750	-270	-440	-1,450
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities (TCPU)	-2,660	-90	40	0	-40
Wholesale Trade	130	-150	-180	-20	-350
Retail Trade	3,480	70	70	170	310
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (FIRE)	2,420	-60	10	230	190

Questions and comments regarding this publication are welcome. Direct to: **Eric Grosso, State Labor Market Economist**
201 E. Washington Avenue, Room G200, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
608-266-7034 608-266-5887(FAX) E-mail: eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us
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